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Bug of the Month **Musk Thistle Crown Weevil**



Musk thistle can grow to be 6 feet tall with large flowers up to 3 inches in diameter. In some parts of Colorado these plants can reach high densities and crowd out native species.

Larvae of the musk thistle crown weevil, *Trichosirocalus horridus*, feed at the base of the plant, near the root crown, and may greatly weaken the plant. In some parts of Colorado these weevils have been very effective against musk thistle, especially in conjunction with the common seed head feeding weevil *Rhinocyllus conicus*.



Larvae leave the plant and pupate in the soil when they finish feeding. The adult weevil is a brownish stout bodied beetle. The Insectary collects and distributes adult weevils during the summer.